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Senate approves legislation to stimulate northern Michigan economy

LANSING – Senate Republicans today showed they remain focused on boosting Michigan’s economy by passing several initiatives aimed at improving the business climate in northern Michigan.

“Our rural communities are just as important as our large cities,” McManus said. “We need to focus on decreasing unemployment across the whole state, especially in the rural areas where Michigan residents are being particularly hard-hit.”

Senators have been hard at work on legislation designed to stimulate the economy in northern Michigan and provide incentives to attract tourism and travel in the region.

Legislation passed by the Senate Wednesday includes:

- **SB 221**, sponsored by McManus, allows for a tax credit for individuals who place a cell phone tower on their property if it is located in an undeserved area.
- **SB 398** creates a Great Lakes Recreational Pass, a multi-state/federal agreement allowing individuals to purchase one pass to visit select parks and forest recreation areas throughout Michigan and neighboring states. The pass would emulate the “Northwest Pass” created by a partnership between Oregon, Washington and the National Park Service; and
- **SB 415**, sponsored by McManus, will require the Department of Natural Resources to enter into an agreement with other states to share information regarding certain snowmobile convictions.

The bills now move on to the House of Representatives for consideration, while the Senate continues to work on additional components of the New Economy Plan, including the Rural Economy and Expanding Small Business packages.

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